FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MAY 1984

Gulf War

New Attacks on Shipping — The Iraqi Navy and Air Force destroyed six "naval targets" in an attack on an enemy convoy in the Khowr-e Musa area on 25 May, a military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, an Iranian plane severely damaged a Liberian tanker traveling outside Saudi territorial waters in the Gulf, according to a Saudi military source cited by Riyadh radio. While noting that a Saudi ship rushed to assist the tanker and save its crew, the spokesman denied that Saudi fighters gave chase to the attacking Iranian aircraft.

Iranian Policy, Syrian Diplomacy — Iran will leave Saudi Arabia alone provided the latter condemns the Iraqi regime's stand on the war and pulls itself "out of the scene of action," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared at a press conference reported by IRNA. He reaffirmed Iran's threat to close the Strait of Hormuz if "they make it impossible for us to export our oil by the waterway," describing this as "no joke." He charged that the Iranian Air Force is as capable now as it was at the start of the war, even though sorties have to be minimized because of a lack of spare parts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian leaders had earlier held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who stated before leaving Tehran that the two sides held "identical" positions on the need to prevent the expansion of the Gulf war, according to Tehran radio. Khaddam told Iranian officials that Syria continues to support Iran's stand over the war, the radio said.

Commenting on Khaddam's visit to Tehran, Iraqi "observers" predicted that the Syrians will be unable to persuade Iran to stop endangering the stability of the Gulf and stated that any Syrian assurances that Iran will not resume its attacks on oil tankers will meet with "ridicule," INA reported. The Iraqis accused Syria of "opportunistic" behavior aimed at safeguarding Iranian financial aid and oil supplies, citing in this regard the Majlis decision to offer Syria free or discounted oil and to reschedule Syrian debts. Sources close to OPEC had earlier disclosed that Syria is suffering a financial crisis because of the stoppage of Iranian oil supplies to Syrian refineries caused by the blockade of Khark Island, according to INA.

Lebanon

Israeli Air Raid — Israeli aircraft attacked a "terrorist" base near Barr Ilyas in the Al-Biqa' valley on 24 May, Jerusalem radio announced citing the IDF spokesman. All the planes returned safely to base and the pilots reported hits on the targets. Beirut radio said two people were killed and five others were wounded in the raid, which was directed against a PFLP-General Command position. Voice of Lebanon radio said Syrian forces fired SAM's at the Israeli planes.

Broadcasting — Information Minister Joseph Skaf will be assisted by a committee in the task of standardizing newscasts and programs, Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. No decision has yet been made to include the private information media in the system of unified newscasts, Minister of State for Southern Lebanon and Reconstruction Nabih Birri said in remarks broadcast by the radio.

Israel

Objections to Missile Sale — Israel informed the United States that it objects "in principle" to Stinger missiles being supplied to Saudi Arabia, Jerusalem radio reported. Israel's renewed opposition to the missile sale came after the U.S. Administration informed Israel of its intention to conclude the deal and requested that Israel "show understanding" of the move in light of the sensitive situation in the Gulf, according to the radio.

Jewish Underground — Two more suspects in the Jewish underground were charged by the state attorney's office, including a major from the Judaea and Samaria military administration, Jerusalem radio disclosed. Meanwhile, after being released on bail, Rabbi Moshe Levinger blamed government "inaction" for "all the latest events," IDF Radio reported.

Syria

Vice President Rif'at al-Asad will visit the Soviet Union at the end of May, Damascus radio and TASS disclosed.

Defense Minister Mustafa Talas highlighted Soviet support for Syria in an interview with Madrid's *EL PAIS*, asserting that plans exist for two Soviet airborne divisions to move to Damascus within 8 hours in the event of a new conflict between Syria and Israel. Talas also stated that all the arms in Syria are under his orders, including the SA-5 missiles.

PLO Affairs

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, speaking at a press conference in Tunis reported by KUNA, criticized Syria's "negative" stance toward relations with Fatah and reaffirmed Fatah's rejection of Syrian attempts to force Yasir 'Arafat's dismissal from the PLO and Fatah leadership because this constitutes interference in PLO internal affairs. Khalaf said his recent talks with Soviet officials were important because PLO-Soviet relations had become "tepid" after 'Arafat's visit to Cairo. Soviet officials showed "complete understanding" for Fatah's stand on PLO unity and the need for a PNC meeting, Khalaf said, and promised to support the national unity dialogue within the PLO.

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Masud Relative Depicts Panjsher Rebel's 'Crimes'

LD210001 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0205 GMT 20 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In addition to news and comment, yesterday's issue of the daily *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR* carries an interview, which reads:

In an interview Yar Mohammad, the son of Mohammad Yahya, an inhabitant of Panjsher who now resides in Parwan Mena [in Kabul city], works with Hoechst Company as an interpreter, and is the uncle of Ahmad Shah Masud, spoke about Masud's crimes and said:

Although he is my nephew, Ahmad Shah is a criminal and a servant of imperialism. He brought grief to all the noble people of Panjsher by killing their dearest ones, making them homeless, and forcing them to flee to mountains. He has resorted to unforgivable actions against the people of Panjsher and the people of Afghanistan. Islam does not call for causing trouble, killing, and destroying people's homes; but, under the orders of his masters — America, China, and Pakistan — under the sacred name of Islam Ahmad Shah Masud resorted to actions that now cause the stones, wood, grass, and birds of Panjsher to curse him, because wherever he has gone he has committed crimes and caused people to suffer.

Ahmad Shah cruelly killed my son Mohammad Ayub and my nephew Aziz, who were not giving in to his demands. Like them, he also killed hundreds of youths and elders who were not obeying him. Similarly, he cruelly killed Pahlawan Ahmad Jan, who was a sports star in our country and had gained honor for our country and people. He imprisoned a large number of our compatriots who were not paying fines or helping him in the mountains and tortured them. Ahmad Shah and his band's actions were against the interests of the people of Panjsher and were [word indistinct] the people of Panjsher.

Despite showing too much patience, the revolutionary government, which is the true supporter of our people, carried out successful operations in Panjsher in order to defend the people and give a crushing rebuff to Ahmad Shah Masud and his criminal band. As a result of these operations all lackeys of Ahmad Shah's band were punished for their sinister actions and the beautiful valley of Panjsher has been cleansed of their foul presence.

Commerce Ministry Assists Panjsher Residents

LD201934 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0205 GMT 20 May 84

[From the press review]

[Summary] In addition to news, comment, and other interesting items, yesterday's issue of the daily *HEWAD* carries a report by the paper's correspondent on distribution of essential goods to the people of Panjsher. It reads:

"In order to help the noble inhabitants of Panisher, the Commerce Ministry is providing sufficient quantities of essential goods to them. These goods are distributed in two parts. The first part consists of grants, including cooking oil, tea, matches, sugar, flour, soap, and clothes. The second part consists of the establishment of shops in Rokhah and (Anaba) to sell goods. Similarly, a consumer cooperative has been established in (Anaba) to help eliminate people's difficulties. Goods ready for distribution include shaving cream, toothpaste, clothes, shoes, textiles, matches, utensils, crockery, cigarettes, stoves, and so on. According to prepared plans, our activities will continue to help the inhabitants of Panjsher."

U.S. 'Aggressive' Plans for Gulf Region Scored

LD240914 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Kabul, May 23, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes:

The Reagan administration masquerades her aggressive actions in the Gulf region in the same way that she had disguised her actions in Lebanon.

George Bush, U.S. vice president, after visiting the accomplices of Reagan's administration in Islamabad, went to shaykhdom of Oman in order to strengthen their ties for the captivity and plunder of the nations. He talked with Oman's authorities to guarantee the stability and security of the countries in the region. This is one of the American-type guarantees for stability and security which resulted to the bloodshed of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese and the destroyal [as received] of Lebanon.

The United States wishes to take advantage of the prevailing situation in the Oman region for launching her new aggressive measures. The forces which under the cover of stability and security disrupts the peace and security would burn their own hands in its fire. [as received]

The efforts for exploiting the prevailing conditions in Gulf is linked with the Hormuz Strait.

These measures pursue the objectives which are openly and decisively in contradiction with the interests of the nations of the Gulf region. The U.S. Department of Defence expects to receive congressional approval for about 200 million dollars for the construction of new bases in the territories of those countries. The countries who believe in such guarantees deceive themselves and have forgotten the lessons of history.

13 Jami'at-e Eslami Members Captured in Sangcharak

LD241812 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The enemies of progress and the advance of revolutionary Afghanistan are being brought to their knees day after day by the vigilant security forces of the country, revolution defense groups, and officers and men of tribal brigades; and the sacred dress of the homeland is being cleansed of the presence of these filthy elements linked to reaction and imperialism.

In recent maneuvers a group of rebels was crushed, together with its ringleader Mohammad Hashem, in the [name indistinct] village, Sangcharak District. Another 13 of them who belonged to the Jami'at-e Eslami were captured.

A spokesman for the security forces of the Jowzjan Province said that 10 assorted weapons along with its ammunition and 10 horses were seized from these enemies of the people.

Rebels Crushed in Baghlan

LD241815 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] A group of rebels, these traitors to the homeland, people and revolution, who wanted to disrupt security in Baghlan and loot property and goods in Baghlan city, were crushed during the night by the men of Baghlan Province; two Kalashnikovs were seized from them.

Soviet Air Force Said Using Chemical Gas in Panjva'i

BK241603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the Soviet Air Force has used chemical gas at Panjva'i subdivision of the Qandahar Province. As a result, hundreds of citizens are suffering from nerve diseases. According to reports, the gas was used after the Afghan mujahidin's severe attack on the subdivisional headquarters on the 16th of this month.

According to other reports, a total strike was observed from the 13th to the 15th of this month at Spin Buldak town near Qandahar to protest conscription. According to a report, the people in the region closed the international highway passing through the town during the strike. They ended the strike when the Karmal soldiers released some of the persons arrested for refusing conscription in the Karmal forces.

Other Mujahidin Successes Depicted

GF240540 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, through their heroic steadfastness, attacked units of the Soviet and Afghan Government forces in various locations in Helmand Province. The news agencies said that the Soviet Government forces attacked some parts of the province last month using hundreds of tanks and personnel carriers and many warplanes and helicopters. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries managed to kill around 30 Soviet Government troops and also destroyed 10 tanks and personnel carriers. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked Bagram airbase located near Kabul last week, destroying three Soviet fighters and killing many Afghan troops. The Muslim revolutionaries also attacked Jalalabad airport in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan last week. A number of warplanes, helicopters, fuel tanks, and ammunition stores were damaged at Jalalabad airport.

Due to the failure of the Soviet invading forces and the government forces to occupy the important and strategic Panjsher valley, a Soviet delegation arrived in the Afghan capital of Kabul to study the missions of Soviet forces and their recent attacks in the Panjsher valley.

Soviets Reinforce Panjsher Valley

GF241853 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 24 May 84

[Summary] Due to heavy blows received from the mujahidin in Panjsher valley, the infidel enemy has been forced to divert its forces in other parts of the country to Panjsher. Reports indicate that the Soviets have moved the 21st Battalion from Andarab, the 37th Battalion from [name indistinct], one battalion from Kunar region, and one battalion from Jalalabad to the Panjsher valley. The deployment of these forces in Panjsher is the result of heavy pounding the mujahidin brothers have inflicted upon the enemy forces.

"The reports received indicate that in recent operations in Panjsher valley at least 200 enemy commandos were killed and another 200 commandos surrendered to our mujahidin brothers. According to the same report, at least 300 other Soviet soldiers were killed, and 700 Afghan Government soldiers along with a young officer of the traitor Afghan Army surrendered to our mujahidin brothers." The reports add that at present the mujahidin are preparing themselves in the Panjsher mountains for another attack on the enemy. As a result of a mine exploded by the mujahidin in the Dasht region of Parvan Province, one Karmal tank was destroyed, and a number of its crew were killed and wounded. In several attacks on Soviet and Karmal posts in Herat Province, our mujahidin brothers killed 75 enemy soldiers and wounded another 40. In operations at Post No 1, Post (Chahar Asiab), and other places, two enemy soldiers were captured. In these scattered operations, six enemy tanks were destroyed. In an attack on an enemy position in (Chahr Tut) region of Herat Province, three Karmal soldiers were killed. In this operation, the mujahidin captured many rifles, much ammunition, and some radios. In this region five Karmal agents surrendered to the mujahidin.

25 Casualties in Herat

GF240953 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 84

[Excerpt] The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries destroyed a tank and large truck and captured a considerable amount of military equipment. They also killed and wounded 25 members of the Afghan and Soviet forces in a number of attacks that they launched against those forces in Herat Province, western Afghanistan.

Seven members of the Babrak Karmal forces joined the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries on those fronts, bringing with them all their military equipment.

Sectarian Violence Continues in Maharashtra

Venkatasubbiah Tours Bombay

BK241613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] In Maharashtra, one person was killed today when police opened fire to disperse a violent mob at Tilak Nagar in Chembur in eastern suburb of Bombay. The police also fired a few rounds at Andheri, Jogeshwari, and Vakola in Santa Cruz to disperse miscreants indulging in arson and looting. According to the police, nobody was injured in the firing. Five cases of stabbing were reported from central Bombay. Troops today moved into (Bayendar) in Thane District. The troops were also asked to stand by in Shahpur and Vade Districts to assist the civil authorities to maintain law and order. The special secretary, home [affairs], Mr Chougule, told newsmen in Bombay this evening that life is fast returning to normal in Bhiwandi, Thane, and Kalyan towns. Meanwhile, the union minister of state for home [affairs], Mr Venkatasubbiah, today visited some riot-affected parts in central Bombay. He met the chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil, and reviewed the situation in the riot-affected areas. Mr Venkatasubbiah will visit Bhiwandi tomorrow. He has been deputed by the prime minister to review the law and order situation in the affected areas.

Death Toll 'Almost 200'

BK250114 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 25 May 84

[Report by Mark Tully on "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] The violence continues in India. In the northern state of Punjab where Sikhs are demanding more political and religious freedom, eight Hundus have been killed by gunmen on motorbikes, and, further south, the clashes between Hindus and Muslims in Maharashtra State have come into their 2d week. Almost 200 people have died in this violence, which is centered around the city of Bombay. Latest news on the troubles there comes from Mark Tully:

[Begin Mark Tully recording] Rioting broke out near the main naval docks in the center of Bombay yesterday afternoon. Two Muslims were stabbed, and this sparked off the violence. Police opened fire. The docks are next to the commercial areas of Bombay and this is the most central place where rioting has occurred so far. In one of the other incidents, where police opened fire yesterday in Bombay, Muslims had attacked a police picket. Muslims attacked a police station on Thursday. It appears that these attacks are the result of Muslim mistrust of the Hindu-dominated police. Muslim leaders have made no secret of this mistrust. Hindu violence, on the other hand, now seems to be mainly hit-and-run attacks. Bakeries are one of their targets. In Bombay, they are owned almost entirely by Muslims. Stabbing incidents by both communities continued yesterday. One of the most worrying features from the authorities' point of view is that violence has started again in the eastern suburbs of Bombay where the Army has moved in. When the Army first moved in, their presence was (?enough) to put an end to the violence. But there have now been reports of more incidents of stoning and stabbing. The general commanding the Army in this region had a meeting with police and civilian officials yesterday. [end recording]

Relief, Rehabilitation Program Planned

BK250330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] A state-level committee will be set up soon in Maharashtra to provide relief and rehabilitation to the riot-affected people in the state. The decision was taken at a meeting of prominent citizens, industrialists, and leaders of political parties at a meeting convened by the chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil, in Bombay. The meeting, presided over by the state governor, Mr Latif, also decided to raise a fund of 10 crore rupees for the purpose. Meanwhile, no untoward incident has been reported from any riot-affected area in Bombay city, Bhiwandi, and Thane since last night. The union minister of state for home [affairs], Mr Venkatasubbiah, will visit Bhiwandi this morning to assess the situation.

Further Reports on Punjab Sikhs' Clashes With State

Gandhi Seeks Public's Cooperation

BK241631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The prime minister has called for wholehearted public cooperation to isolate the terrorists in Punjab. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to a delegation of the Punjab Vyapar Mandal [trade association] which called on her in New Delhi today. She said: Apart from public efforts it is necessary for the Sikhs themselves to consider how long they can allow holy places to harbor criminals and extremists. Mrs Gandhi said it is difficult to say whose game the terrorists are playing. It is, however, clear that smugglers and other antisocial elements are taking full advantage of the situation. Some people are making use of the disturbed condition to settle old scores. Whenever an effort is made to resume talks, violence is deliberately stepped up. The prime minister said despite the terrorist acts, she can assure the people of the state that the police are now in a better position to deal with them. Mrs Gandhi appealed to the people and the press not to say or do anything that would lower the morale of the police. Mrs Gandhi reiterated that the government is always ready for talks to solve the problem, but it appears that those who are engaged in acts of terrorism do not want a solution, and they do everything in their power to frustrate a settlement. The need, therefore, is for all same-thinking people to come together and isolate the terrorists. Members of the delegation belonging to both Hindu and Sikh communities complained to the prime minister about harm being done to the state's economy by the continuing violence.

Press Statement Decries Killings

BK240835 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] New Delhi, May 24 (AFP) — A joint statement issued by various sections of the Indian press today condemned the killings

of innocent persons and journalists in Punjab State and pledged to uphold press freedom despite "mounting threats and physical assaults" there. The statement coincided with the "kirya" (15th day) ceremonies of noted journalist Ramesh Chander, chief editor of the language daily, *HIND SAMACHAR*, who was gunned down by suspected Sikh militants a fortnight ago.

The signatories included the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society, which represents newspaper publishers, the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, the Indian Federation of Working Journalists, the Editors' Guild of India, the Indian Language Newspapers' Association, and the National Union of Journalists. Stating that murders and violence would not help extremists achieve their professed goal, the statement added: "Ultimately it is the force of public opinion which will assert itself and not the coercion, killing, and throttling of the voice of the press." Mr. Chander was the third to have had succumbed to extremist bullets since the Punjab violence, unleashed by Sikh militants fighting for autonomy for the predominantly Sikh state, began over two years ago.

Planned Movement Raises 'Concern'

BK241637 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The center is understood to have viewed with concern the Akali Dal's decision to launch a noncooperation movement in Punjab from the 3d of next month, as it would further vitiate the atmosphere, leading to violence. The government is anxious that nothing is done which will give a (?handle) either to agitationists or antisocial elements to take advantage of the present situation. The sources say the Punjab administration will take whatever step is necessary to maintain peace in the state.

Sikh Priests Issue Directive

BK250326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] In Punjab, eight persons were killed and one seriously injured when some terrorists opened fire near village Tehra in Ludhiana District yesterday. The victims, who were traveling in a car, were stopped and fired upon by three armed terrorists riding a motorcycle. Police reinforcements were rushed to the place of the crime and an intensive search for the culprits launched. The Ludhiana District magistrate has imposed curfew in Jagraon, a nearby town, from 2000 yesterday to 0900 tomorrow. The Jullundur police yesterday recovered 4 hand grenades, 2 12-bore guns along with 50 live cartridges, a 12-bore pistol, 1 303 revolver, and a gun with 25 live cartridges from a car. The district magistrate, Kapurthala, has banned plying of scooters throughout the district till the 10th of next month. Plying of motorcycles has already been banned in the district. Head priests of the five Sikh (?temples) of highest seats have issued a six-point directive to the Sikh masses asking them not to criticize their authority through statements in the press, pamphlets, or through other means. The directive said that the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] and other high seats were above party politics and factionalism, and their decisions were applicable to every Sikh.

Singh, CSSR Foreign Trade Minister Sign Protocol

BK241633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] India and Czechoslovakia have agreed to increase cooperation in science and technology, electronics, and engineering. A trade protocol was signed by the commerce minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, and the Czechoslovak foreign trade minister, Mr Urban, in New Delhi following the India-Czech joint committee deliberations for 4 days. The protocol emphasizes the need for a long-term plan and agreed in principle to have the present rupee trading arrangements renewed for another 5 years. The next session of the joint commission will be held in Prague next year.

President's Rule Set in Sikkim; Assembly Dissolved

BK251257 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 May 84

[Text] Sikkim has come under president's rule. The state legislative assembly has been dissolved. In a proclamation in New Delhi today, the president said he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the state government cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. In exercise of powers conferred by Article 356 of the Constitution, the president has assumed to himself all functions of the Sikkim Government and all powers vested in and exercisable by the state governor. The powers of the Sikkim legislature shall be exercised by or under the authority of Parliament.

Janata Party Deputy Suspended for 'Antiparty' Acts

BK241641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Dr Subramaniam Swamy, who is the deputy leader of the Janata Party in parliament, has been suspended from the party for his alleged antiparty activities. The party general secretary, Mr George Fernandes, who briefed newsmen after today's meeting of the national executive, said the resolution to this effect was adopted unanimously. Dr Swamy did not attend the meeting today. Mr Fernandes told newsmen that some other members also abstained from today's meeting. They included Mr Ravinder Verma, Mr Raj Narain, Mr Banarasi Das, Mr Gyaneshwar Prasad, Mr P.N. Sharma, and Mr Rattan Singh Rajnath. Dr Swamy described his suspension from the party as an attempt to silence him on the issue of alleged buying of votes in Bihar during the Rajya Sabha elections.

Bush Remarks Prove India Not Seen as 'Pivotal Power'

BK241320 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 May 84 p 8

[Editorial: "No False Promises"]

[Text] We have reason to be grateful to the U.S. vice president, Mr. George Bush. He has spared us promises the Reagan administration has no intention to live up to. He has, for instance, not said that it would cut off military assistance to Pakistan in case

Islamabad acquires nuclear weapons. All that he has allowed himself to do is to restate the familiar position, which is that the United States holds strong views on non-proliferation and that these views have been communicated to Pakistan. Similarly, he has not held out the assurance that his country will do all in its power to see to it that Pakistan does not use weapons supplied by it against India. Indeed, he has seen it fit to draw attention to the fact that this country too is purchasing weapons and that it too cannot give an assurance that these weapons will be used only against a specific power. This is an absurd comparison, and it would be extraordinary if Mr. Bush does not know this to be so. For while the U.S. case for supplying sophisticated military hardware to Islamabad is that a threat to Pakistan's security has arisen as a result of the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, India's case for acquiring comparable weapons systems is that it has to match Pakistan's and to an extent China's military strength lest they are tempted to attack it once again. But the absurdity of the comparison is less pertinent than the fact that Mr. Bush should have made it. That further underscores the importance the Reagan administration attaches to its relations with Pakistan.

At the start of his visit to New Delhi last Saturday, Mr. Bush, however, made a statement which too he should have spared us. The United States, he said, recognised India as "a major, pivotal power." The key word is not major but pivotal. For while recognition of India's status as a major power is only a statement of fact, the use of the term pivotal must raise the question: pivotal to what and for whom? If the United States recognised India as a pivotal power even only in South Asia, Washington would feel obliged to engage in meaningful discussions with New Delhi in respect of its own policies towards countries in the region. Washington has shown no such consideration to New Delhi. The implication is obvious. America does not regard India as a pivotal power in this part of the world. This is understandable in view of this country's steadfast refusal to subordinate its independence to the U.S. anti-Soviet crusade, in other words, its refusal to be a "pivotal power" in this region. But why then the rhetoric? Perhaps that is part of the American personality. Perhaps we have been mistaken in taking such rhetoric seriously. Indeed, that spotlights another problem in Indo-U..S relations — the Indian search for U.S. recognition of its status as if someone else can confer a particular status on a country.

Nuclear Power Plants Said in 'Appalling State'

BK210144 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 9 May 84 p 6

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Mess"]

[Text] The appalling state of affairs in India's heavy water plants and nuclear power plants has not been explained satisfactorily at all by Dr Raja Ramanna and his colleagues in the nuclear establishment. A series of articles in *THE TIMES OF INDIA* has made the most serious charges about the rot in the nuclear establishment, replete with figures taken from documents of the Department of Atomic Energy. These need the most detailed answers, which in turn must be the subject of cross-examination. Is it true that although Rs 400 crore have been sunk in four heavy water plants, their actual output totalled only Rs 4.45 crore in 1982-83 and Rs 4 crore in 1984-85? Is it true that despite the poor performance of all plants so far, new ones are being put up on the assumption that faithful copies can be made of the existing ones in the absence of a qualified design engineering cell? Is it true that the cost of production of heavy water at the projected Thal plant will be Rs 10,000 a kilo and at Manuguru Rs 15,000 per kilo? Is it a fact that heavy water costs alone will add one rupee to the unit cost of generating nuclear power? And if so, how can nuclear power based on this technology ever be economically viable? Is it true that the guarantee period for the Talcher heavy water plant is likely to expire before it is even commissioned properly? Is it true that the design failures at Talcher are so serious that it is unlikely ever to be viable? Is is a fact that the plants at Baroda and Tuticorin have never produced more than 30 per cent of their rated capacity?

At a press conference, Dr N. Srinivasan, director of Heavy Water Projects, made certain bland statements which call for much deeper scrutiny. He declared that the Talcher project was quite viable and that the engineering problems were not difficult to solve. How can he know that the plant is viable if it has never operated on a sustained basis? Knowing the problems that have plagued heavy water plants for years — the Kota plant being a classic example — what is the basis for saying that Talcher will not be similarly afflicted? Dr Srinivasan claims that the Tuticorin plant is a success and has been working at 80 per cent of capacity. How is this to be reconciled with figures taken from DAE documents showing that Baroda and Tuticorin operated at less than 30 per cent capacity between November 1983 and January 1984? If Tuticorin has merely worked at 80 per cent capacity for a few weeks or months, that is meaningless. What is relevant is its performance on a sustained basis. It is certainly to be hoped that nuclear scientists will overcome problems that have arisen. But what is the use of pretending that the nuclear programme has been a great success when failure is writ large over several areas where no secret documents are needed to establish failure? It is a known fact that heavy water plants whose construction started a dozen years ago or more have produced virtually nothing. It is well known that final costs of nuclear power stations as well as heavy water plants have been thrice as much as the original estimates.

Dr Ramanna and his colleagues feel that they have achieved a great deal in the face of a series of unanticipated problems. They argue that the cost of learning is high, and the very fact that India has the capacity to build sophisticated nuclear plants by itself is a great scientific achievement. But it remains to be demonstrated that it is a great commercial achievement. Nuclear power stations and heavy plants are supposed to be commercial propositions, not laboratory experiments. Nuclear facts have been hidden for far too long from the public gaze in the name of secrecy. It is essential for the Department of Atomic Energy to come out with a full performance budget, laying down targets and cost estimates year by year for every plant, and then stating the actual performance. Its balance sheet must also be published. It should then be left to the public to decide whether the plants have performed well. The nuclear establishment cannot be the sole judge of its own performance in the name of secrecy.

Zia Interviewed on Relations With India, Elections

BK250910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 24 May 84

[Interview with President Ziaul Haq by All-India Radio special correspondent Manohar Takroo in Karachi — date of interview not given; recorded]

[Text] [Takroo] Your Excellency: May I start by asking you what is the progress in the normalization of relations between India and Pakistan and what you call your peace offensive?

[Zia] *Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim* [In the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate]. You know, I am a soldier and by nature I am an optimist, and, therefore, when I plan for certain things, while we (?prepare) for the worst, we hope for the best. But in this case, by the grace of God, we have had some good success, and the Pakistani peace offensive for normalization of relations with India, at my mind, has brought very positive results and fruits. If we could get similar responses from India, which are forthcoming, then I think we will be able to complete this operation in not too distant future.

[Takroo] Mr Rasgotra, the Indian foreign secretary, was asked the same question, and he said India is willing to go more than halfway to meet the Pakistani peace offensive. Do you think India is doing that?

[Zia] Well, we expect this from India, and if there are any shortcomings in our expectations from India or vice versa — India's expectations from us — then I think this should be tolerated, because given the circumstances in which we are living, whatever we achieve should come as a bonus; and, therefore, from that point of view, I met Mr Rasgotra and my meeting with him was highly reassuring, it was very fruitful, and as he said that they are likely to come more than halfway, we are too.

[Takroo] Now, more specifically, what is the present state of relations? After all these meetings, how would you sum up the present state now?

[Zia] Cordial; relations are cordial. But, as you know, [in] our relations, it is not what is happening currently; it is the fallout of the (?events) for 35 years, misunderstanding, misapprehensions, mistrust, all that. Atmosphere was so polluted that it will take some time now before it is cleared up. And on our side, we are trying to generate as much of a cleanliness in the atmosphere and remove the pollution as soon as we can, and we have been assured that India also is doing something on this. So I would rate the present state of affairs as cordial, and if there is a political will — which seems there is on both sides — I am sure we will be able to achieve much better results in the forthcoming months.

[Takroo] You were reported as offering to India a physical review of the ratio or quantum of armed forces in the two countries. Would you like to elucidate how such an understanding can be reached, and, what is more important, how such an understanding can be sustained?

[Zia] Yes, I have my own philosophy on the subject. You look at the map of India. India is the largest country. It is a subcontinent — 650 million people, roughly, comprising Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and whatever you have. A large army of armed forces such surrounded [as heard] by all small neighbors. If India is under such circumstances, when he is a major segment of the region already, and if India is going that far in strengthening its Armed Forces, then the fear should generate from, not from India, but from the smaller partners like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, you know, the other — Burma. But it is the other way round. We hear from India that they are afraid of Pakistan's accumulation of arms, which we have not done. They fear that Pakistan is going to attack India. We say we have no intentions; we have no desire. We want to have normalization, and we want to normalize the relations. Now, under the circumstances, therefore, if the fear, which is not understandable to me, that, why should such a fear come from the Indian side? They are the largest partner, they are much more stronger, much more well-equipped, [have] much, far better superior equipment with them. If the fear is coming from that side, then there must be something fundamentally wrong. So, therefore, let us assume that if at our level — between the two of us, can we introduce a mini-arms control at our level — if that is the case, and it is in this respect that we suggested. [sentence as heard]

[Takroo] Now, apart from this, what concrete steps can be taken in other fields — in nonpolitical fields — which may help the two countries to move toward more closer friendship?

[Zia] The most important aspect in this is the political will to move ahead under all circumstances.

[Takroo] Do you think Mrs Gandhi has the political will?

[Zia] Of course, she is an elected leader of 600 million people, and I am sure she is heading for a second win in the elections. If she has not got it, then who has? I am sure she has, and if, given the political will on both sides, this is a peanut. [laughter]

[Takroo] Since you have met her several times, do you think it would be desirable, I mean, it would be helpful to have another meeting with her? Would that help in any way?

[Zia] Sure, we keep on talking occasionally. I send her greetings, and she was very kind to send me a letter yesterday. I also write to her. So it is that a meeting is always useful. When I met Madame Gandhi on 1 November 1982 and later during the nonaligned summit, I was a gainer. I learned something from her. And I am sure, meeting at that level will always result in positive [results]. But, [prior to] meeting with such positive results must go some preliminary work, and if the preliminary work is done by the secretaries' level and the joint ministerial commission, and the foreign ministers' level, then when we meet, we don't have to solve the problem whether we should reduce half a dozen here, half a dozen there; or why is this happening, why that. And we meet in a cordial atmosphere and sign on the dotted lines and clap.

[Takroo] I have had the privilege of interviewing you in the past also, and I always included a question asking you: What do you expect India to do in these circumstances? What specific steps would you like them to take?

[Zia] In the first case, I think, and I will be very frank with you. It has been my honor, I admit, I feel it an honor for me that when you, Mr Takroo, have come from the All-India Radio, it is a matter of great pleasure for me, and, therefore, you are most welcome. But it is all right for you to ask what should India do. I think India is in a position to know what they should do. I can tell you what I should do and what we are doing. Yes, we are doing, in the first case, as I said, Pakistan is on a peace offensive. We are going all out to take all measures on the media, on the television, greater exchange of delegations. Journalists, intellectuals, educationists, thinkers — everybody who wants to come to Pakistan — we say: Here you are. This is the country, and vice versa. [as heard] We are also sending more delegations. And we feel that there should be much greater understanding between the people of the two countries, greater exchange of visits, and removal of the misunderstanding. If we can do that, we are through. [as heard]

[Takroo] There could be greater understanding if you could progress in the areas like trade and more visits. But there is a feeling in India that you are not quite keen on improving trade relations with us.

[Zia] No, no. We are the first to improve. If I can get something cheaper from India, why should I go and buy it from somewhere else. It is obvious. We went. We were short of potato; we went to India. India was short of fertilizer; they came to us. We are developing our relations, and a time will come when the two countries mutually will decide what is good for both of them. How can the trade be kept balanced, and what is it that we can buy from India, and what is it that India can buy from us? I am very certain on this issue.

[Takroo] Last year, we set up a joint commission. What is your impression about the work that has been done by the joint commission and the subcommissions?

[Zia] Joint ministerial commission has done a tremendous job and the subcommissions, which met recently in Pakistan and India, they have also done a very positive job. And I think their pace at which they have moved is much faster, and if they continue doing so, I think, the subcommissions' meeting in August or the joint ministerial commission's meeting in August would be more positive, and I am sure it will bring some more results.

[Takroo] Can I ask you a question about your country — the prospects of elections? There is talk of elections here again. What are your plans?

[Zia] We have held two elections already at the lower level, at the local self-government level, one in 1979 and one in 1983. We now have to hold elections for the provincial assemblies, national assemblies, and these will be held in accordance with my 12 August program, which is very elaborate. My 9-point program, which I gave out in Peshawar a couple of months back, you see a combination of these programs that we intend to go through with precision; and we hope by March 1985 we will, *insha' Allah* [God willing], be able to implement this and bring about civilian elected representatives after it. [sentence as heard]

[Takroo] Will the elections be on a nonparty basis?

[Zia] Well, we have not yet decided. But there is a good reason — there is a very good reason — or, better, you can say that there is a good scope for holding elections on nonparty basis. But I will qualify that we have not yet finalized, taken the final decision. And when the Cabinet decides, the chances are that we might go in favor of a nonparty election.

[Takroo] What are the advantages of this partyless system of elections?

[Zia] For the time being, as you know, we have worked, we have gone through 7 years, and in the past — the history of Pakistan — during half of this time, the previous martial law administrators had either made the party or had been thrown out. But we have been so far able to resist the temptation, and also not only the temptation, and also advice in this respect. I have not raised a political party of my own. I have kept myself above party politics and that too with great care, effort, and a solid intention. The advantage is: Unlike India, we have not been able to cultivate our political parties to such an extent that they would take firm root in the political society of Pakistan. And therefore I feel there are two alternatives — either I should undertake this to strengthen the political parties, which will require much longer time; so I have given it up. [sentence as heard] And therefore, [words indistinct] let us hold nonparty elections or partyless elections. Let individuals come on their own personal merits and thus collect the number of individuals on merit. And we hope that they will then form into like-minded groups, and if they so desire — the elected representatives — they may revive the parties. We are making an ornament. In an Islamic society, representatives who form the government must be the solid gold, and I am only looking for 24 carats and unless I see 24-carat gold, I don't want to bring in junk, buy, you know, gold-plated or German [as heard] gold or 18-carat gold. No, I am looking for 24-carat gold, and it is in this respect that we have laid down some qualifications — these qualifications, which will be looked into not by me but by an independent, autonomous election commission headed by a judge of the Supreme Court, like any other election commission in India, Pakistan, or anywhere else.

[Takroo] Thank you.

President Assesses Gulf War

BK241730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has again expressed the hope that Iran and Iraq will end the fratricidal war, and if in any case the war does not end immediately [that] they will not resort to any drastic step which may affect the entire region. Talking to newsmen before leaving Karachi this evening for Islamabad, he said he was confident that both sides would appreciate Pakistan's stand as a member of the world Islamic community and the Nonaligned Movement.

In reply to a question about the possibility of closure of the Strait of Hormuz, he said: We are aware of its repercussions, as Pakistan is a backyard of the Gulf region. We are taking appropriate measures to meet the situation. The president said he had received several messages from the Organization of Islamic

Conference Secretariat as well as from the secretary general, Mr Habib Chatti, and friendly countries about the possibility of holding a meeting of the Islamic community peace committee. No date for the meeting has yet been fixed. He said we would have to see what step the peace committee could take. He made it clear that we love all Islamic countries as we love Pakistan. We are ready to give whatever help was required by those countries.

About India-Pakistan relations, the president hoped that the recent talks between the foreign secretaries of the two countries will have good results and will lead to further improvement of bilateral relations. He said Pakistan wants to prove to be a good neighbor of India and have the same expectations from that country.

The president told newsmen that during his 3-day stay in Karachi, he had detailed discussions with the Sind governor on various matters relating to the province. He said law and order would be maintained at all cost in Sind as well as the other provinces. For this purpose further improvement would be brought about in the administration.

Zia Views Role of Press

BK241542 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 May 84

[Excerpt] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the present government believes in keeping the press independent and clean and wants to give it a chance to play a role in the Islamic state. He was addressing the annual function of the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society in Karachi last night.

The president said that in spite of martial law, the circulation and publication of newspapers has generally increased during the past 7 years. He said the day will surely come when political activities will be restored and political representatives elected. He urged the newspapers to assist the government in improving the present situation and in accomplishing the goal of restoration of democracy.

Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan To Visit Austria

BK241645 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will arrive in Vienna on Saturday on a 2-day official visit to Austria. A spokesman of the Pakistani Embassy at the Austrian capital said that this visit by the Pakistani foreign minister is part of his visit to six European countries.

Sind PPP Leader on Imprisonment of MRD Officials

GF221800 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 May 84 p 6

[Staff report]

[Text] Hyderabad, May 3 — The acting president of defunct PPP Sind, Makhdoom Amin Faheem, said that most of the front-line leaders of MRD Sind and about 1,000 MRD workers are still confined in various jails of the province.

In an exclusive interview with *MUSLIM* at his residence at Karachi on April 30, he said these leaders and workers were not at all ready to accept conditional release. He said great tyranny and oppression has been enacted by the jail authorities who violated the jail rules and refused any facilities to the political prisoners.

Quoting various examples, he said former Chief Minister of Sind Mumtaz Bhutto, Rasool Bux Paleejo, Meraj Muhammad Khan, Ayaz Soomro, Mr. Mohatta, former president of district bar association Larkana, and others were shifted from jails to various medical centres for treatment only after enormous public pressure was exerted.

Amin Faheem said that the people of Punjab, who are considered by the people of other three provinces as their "elder brothers," should play their due role for the restoration of democracy and the constitution of 1973. He was of the opinion that the struggle of the people of the three smaller provinces will not bring fruitful results unless Punjab joins them. He said during MRD movement the present regime had tried to keep the people of Punjab in the dark about the happenings in Sind.

Amin Fahim said the PPP will announce a new manifesto before the next general elections. He said the fundamental clauses of the manifesto on which the entire structure of the PPP rests will remain unchanged, i.e., Islam is our religion, socialism is our economy, democracy is our politics, and people are the source of power (sovereignty).

He said that Miss Benazir Bhutto had not applied to go abroad for medical treatment. Rather, the government itself, on the reports of doctors, had sent her abroad. He said he had talked to Miss Benazir Bhutto on the telephone on several occasions and she had guided him from time to time on party matters. He did not agree with the view that with Miss Benazir's going abroad the morale of the PPP workers had sagged and groupings had emerged in the party. He said as soon as Miss Benazir Bhutto recovers from her illness she will lose no time to come back to her country.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Expected To 'Renounce Complicity'
NC242139 Paris AFP in English 2126 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 24 (AFP) — A top-level Iranian leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said today that Iran expects Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to "renounce their complicity" with Iraq and pressure it to stop attacks on oil tankers that use Iran's Khark Island oil-loading terminal.

Mr Rafsanjani, who is speaker of the Iranian parliament and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's representative on the Iranian Defense Council, spoke only hours after Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam of Syria, an ally of Iran in the Iran-Iraq war, visited Tehran.

"If the Iraqis attack tankers in the Persian Gulf, we will have the right to create insecurity on all the oil routes in the Gulf. That is our policy and this is not the time to go into details," he said at a press conference.

Asked what was the purpose of Mr Khaddam's visit, Mr Rafsanjani replied, "We explained our position. We insisted that we have no intention of extending the war but Saudi Arabia and Kuwait must renounce their complicity with Iraq and condemn it."

He declined to comment on reports of attacks by Iranian warplanes on oil tankers in the Gulf.

He described as "bluff" United States offers of military aid to Saudi Arabia and other regional allies and reaffirmed Iran's determination to close the Strait of Hormuz, at the entrance of the Gulf, "if we can no longer export oil through the Gulf."

Majlis Speaker's Remarks Detailed
LD242217 Tehran IRNA in English 2020 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that any world court to be appointed for taking up the issue of the Iraq-Iran war must confirm as a precondition that the Baghdad regime has been the aggressor party throughout the war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was answering a question by a foreign reporter at a press conference here this evening, reminded again that Iran would submit to the decisions of any such court in relation with the conflict after the Iranian Government has agreed on its venue and its jury members. Iran's Majlis speaker, who was speaking here at the threshold of the termination of the first session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, said Iran has deliberately halted any further advancement of its Armed Forces in the battlefronts in order to give a cue to the Iraqi Government. Said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "We still hope that Baghdad will learn a lesson and submit to our terms. We are Muslims and as Muslims we cannot readily bring ourselves to destructive acts. We do so after we have tried other means without result...."

Asked elsewhere in the interview by a Tehran daily about where Iran stands in relation with claims lodged against the Iranian Government and Iranian institutions by American claimants, he said by filing claims against Iran, Washington has already "violated in principle" the word and the spirit of the Algiers agreement in about 18 areas. "As has been already declared by our president and prime minister, if Washington should continue violating the agreement, we will have to review our policies."

Speaking about the Iraq-Iran war and answering a question posed to him by another reporter about Iran backing down from an earlier ultimatum for closing the Hormuz Strait, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that because Iran has not yet done so it does not mean that it had had a second thought about it. "We will do so," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "only when they make it impossible for us to export our oil by the waterway; it is no joke."

Answering another question by a Japan daily on Iran's readiness to accept the Majnun Islands in lieu of war reparations from Baghdad he said the idea had been brought up by an Arab daily in the Persian Gulf and not by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said a certain Arabic daily had said by way of commenting that by occupying the Majnun Islands Iran had as though received its war damages. "The proposition," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "can be part of a package deal in any future agreement" (with the Baghdad regime).

Elsewhere when an American reporter brought up the subject of Iran's Air Force capacity and asked whether it could lead successful fighting against the combined air forces of the Persian Gulf states, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that because the Islamic Republic relies on U.S.-made parts for its F-4's, F-5's, and F-15's and its other aircraft, it had decided to minimize the number of its Air Force sorties but that there is nothing to worry about. "Today," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "we are as much capable in our air operations as we were on the first day of the war."

Asked by another reporter whether in his visit here this week, Syria's Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was also trying to mediate between Iran on the one hand and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other, the Majlis speaker said, "Mr Fahd (of Saudi Arabia) had requested the Syrian vice president in writing to make a visit to Tehran in order to learn about Iran's attitudes towards the two countries and in order to learn whether Iran really intended to expand the war in a manner to engulf the two states as well. Our answer was a definite no," said Hashemi-Rafsanjani. "We will leave Saudi Arabia alone provided that it condemn the Baghdad regime in relation with the war and provided that it pull itself out of the scene of action." Rafsanjani reminded that despite Saddam Husayn's express word of his Air Force having hit two Saudi Arabian vessels by mistake at the Persian Gulf and despite Saddam's candid confession of having been aided in doing so by the AWACS installed in Saudi Arabia, the country's officials did not say the least in their protest to Saddam Husayn, which shows how much sympathetic [as received] the Saudis are towards Iraq's Saddam Husayn.

Answering another question by a reporter from Tehran about national development projects in the future, Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that currently one-fourth of the total appropriations go for war expenditures, but that nonetheless, developmental projects would continue without interruption.

Further Reports on Visit to Tehran by Syria's Khaddam

War Restriction Agreed Upon

JN231954 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1920 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] Tehran, 23 May (SANA) — Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i received here this evening Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar'. The meeting was attended by Mostafa Mir-Salim, assistant to the Iranian president; Aqazadeh, the prime minister's assistant and minister of state for executive affairs; and Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting Khaddam conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i related to the latest developments in the Gulf. The Iranian president gave Khaddam a reply message to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Well-informed sources in Tehran said that Al-Asad's message called for the need to avoid any expansion of the war and to calm down the situation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Gulf states. This is because of the grave situation that threatens the entire region and the circumstances that help imperialism and Zionism in achieving their ambitions in the region.

These sources affirmed that the views during the meeting were in agreement on the need to avoid expanding the scope of the war in order to prevent any imperialist intervention in the region.

Meeting With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD241735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Syrian Vice President Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who, heading a delegation along with Mr. Faruq ash-Shar', that country's foreign affairs minister, had traveled to Iran to submit a special message from Mr Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the fraternal country of Syria, to Mr Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, at noon today met and conferred with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council.

In this meeting, noting the views of Mr Hafiz al-Asad and the other Syrian officials, Mr Khaddam emphasized his country's support and backing for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of recent developments. He considered the present situation in the Persian Gulf region as the Iraqi regime's conspiracy for the expansion of the imposed war to the Persian Gulf and dragging the superpowers to the region and asked for extensive confrontation with this conspiracy.

Also in this meeting Mr Khaddam, reiterating support for the just positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war, declared that throughout all the stages of the imposed war Syria has been and will be alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the extensive conspiracy of the Iraqi regime and its allies for causing trouble in the Persian Gulf region and spreading the imposed war to that region in order to drag the superpowers into the Persian Gulf, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran will confront any conspiracy in this connection and will not allow anybody to carry out such acts of adventurism.

In this meeting, referring to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has so far maintained security for shipping in the Persian Gulf in the best way, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: If shipping becomes unsafe in the Persian Gulf, this insecurity will definitely spread to other regions. We assure the neighboring countries that as long as there is no intervention, we shall be able to control this matter, like the war, and will not allow the region's countries to be damaged by Saddam and the Ba'th Party any longer.

Predeparture Statement

LD241612 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who arrived here accompanied by his country's foreign affairs minister Faruq Shar' Wednesday, left Tehran this afternoon.

Khaddam was seen off at Tehran's international airport by Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, State Minister in Charge of the Executive Affairs Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, ambassadors of the Islamic countries to Tehran and some other officials.

The vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic delivered a message from his country's president Hafiz al-Asad for President 'Ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking to reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, the Syrian envoy said explicitly that Syria was not mediating between Tehran and Baghdad for an end to the current war between the two countries but that its efforts were primarily focused on checking an uncontrolled spread of the conflict.

Asked for his personal views about Iraq's frequent missiling of international vessels at the Persian Gulf waterways, Khaddam said that Baghdad's recent attacks against commercial tankers and other vessels at the Persian Gulf has further aggravated the situation in the region, and that Syria supports efforts for checking further expansion of the ongoing war. Asked elsewhere on Syria's outlook about the war as compared to the outlooks of the Iranian authorities, Khaddam said that based on his talks with Iran's President Khamene'i, Foreign Minister Velayati, and Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, he had been convinced that Syria's opinion about the need for checking an uncontrolled spread of the war were similar with Iran's outlooks.

The Syrian envoy was heading a high-ranking Syrian official to Tehran.

In another interview at the airport here, the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said to reporters that in their talks with the Iranian officials 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and the Syrian delegation had reaffirmed Syria's support for the Islamic

Republic of Iran and for "our legitimate defensive war against Saddam's political system." He said he and other Iranian officials had made it clear to the Syrian envoy that any halting of Iran's oil export from the Persian Gulf would obviously mean a halting of oil exports from the waterway of all Persian Gulf states.

Nejat-e Iran: Relations 'Cooling'

GF241004 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 23 May 84

[Text] In concluding our reports on the visit of Khaddam and Ash-Shar' to Tehran, we must add that the cooling of relations between Khomeyni and Hafiz al-Asad started when Syria was trying its best to set up a national unity government in Lebanon, and the armed guards and the hezbollahis of Khomeyni in Lebanon started their terrorist activities. At the time we had broadcast a news report from our correspondent in Beirut to the effect that Syria was putting pressure on the Khomeyni regime so that it would withdraw its guards and the hezbollahis from Lebanese territory. Last week Damascus pressure proved effective and about 1,000 armed personnel of the Khomeyni regime were withdrawn to Tehran against the wishes of Khomeyni.

Pakistani Interior Minister Haroon's Visit Continues

Meeting With President Khamene'i

LD242318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 May 84

[Excerpts] Pakistani Interior Minister Mahmud Haroon, who is currently on a visit to Tehran leading a five-member delegation, today met President Khamene'i and delivered a written message to him from President Ziaul Haq.

President Khamene'i, stressing the need for expansion of relations between the Iranian and Pakistani nations, said: All historical, geographical, cultural, and religious factors point to the expansion of relations between the two countries. However, there are those in the world who wish to prevent the strengthening and expansion of such relations. The two governments must be aware of and deal with these motives.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Haroon

LD242322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 May 84

[Excerpts] Mr Mahmud Haroon, Pakistan's interior minister, today met and conferred with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

In this meeting, in which Mr Nateq-Nuri, the interior minister, was also present, Mr Mahmud Haroon said: The history of our long relations with you goes back to several centuries ago. We have common interests and ties in various fields, including cultural issues; in addition, both countries are moving in the same direction and towards one aim, which is a direction specified for us by Islam.

Then Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his remarks said: We believe that with their numerous resources and potentials the Islamic countries are capable of creating a great power backed by Islam, and our country's Constitution is founded on this principled basis. The slogan of our revolution is unity among Muslims. Regarding Iraq, all our efforts are aimed at eradicating this festering tumor from the region. The existence of a festering tumor such as Saddam and the Ba'th party will cause the two countries to be involved in an armed clash all the time. We expect the countries which are friendly to us to identify the aggressor and to condemn him. We have said many times that we have the power to maintain security in the Persian Gulf, provided that the Persian Gulf countries do not involve themselves with the tension created by Saddam.

Foreign Minister To Visit Bulgaria 26-28 May

LD241156 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will pay an official visit to Bulgaria on 26 to 28 May.

The visit is on the invitation of his Bulgarian counterpart Petur Mladenov, during which Velayati is scheduled to meet the Bulgarian president, prime minister, and foreign minister.

Reagan, Bush Remarks on Gulf Intervention Interpreted

GF240946 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0720 GMT 24 May 84

[From "Behind the News" program]

[Text] In view of the strategic and economic importance of the Gulf region and of the extensive U.S. interests in this region, U.S. reactions, whether press reaction or actual reaction, toward the recent events in the Gulf were expected. These events were a natural outcome of the continuing aggressions by Saddam's regime on oil tankers and commercial ships. The apex of this U.S. reaction was President Reagan's message to Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. As stated by informed U.S. sources, Reagan renewed with his message the previous U.S. pledge to safeguard what he called the freedom of international navigation through the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. In order to guarantee the implementation of this commitment, Reagan asked the Saudi king to place Saudi air and naval bases at the disposal of U.S. forces for their use in time of need. It seems from the contents of Reagan's message that he has opted for the choice of direct intervention in the region in cooperation and coordination with Saudi Arabia and the other agent regimes.

However, the statement Vice President George Bush made to the U.S. NBC television network gives a completely different impression from Reagan's message. In his statement, Bush said that the United States should not be dragged into what is going on in the Gulf and advised Saudi Arabia as well not to get embroiled in these events in order to preserve its interests. And when Bush was asked about the U.S. request to some countries in the region to place their air and naval bases at U.S. disposal, he said: We have not made such a request and we don't need such bases.

This completely contr dicts Reagan's message to the king of the Saudi regime. This contradiction between the U.S. President's message and the statements of his vice president raise several possibilities. The first is the attempt to misguide the media at the time when preparations are being made for direct U.S. intervention. The second possibility is the presence of disorder and chaos in the various U.S. ranks with regard to what the U.S. action should be like. It is worth noting that such chaos existed in the ranks of U.S. decisionmaking at the time of the Islamic Revolution regarding the ways and means of dealing with the revolution. The third possibility is that these contradictions may be an indication that the U.S. Administration has not so far adopted a final decision on how to deal with the Gulf region's events from among the many alternatives available to it.

As we list the above three possibilities, it seems, however, that the final and third possibility — that is, not adopting a final decision yet — is the strongest possibility, which explains the contradiction between what Reagan said in his message and what Bush said in his statements.

The final decision will cost the U.S. Administration a lot in any event, because choosing not to intervene means leaving the U.S. interests scattered, while choosing to intervene directly means entering a military adventure such that by the time the United States decides to leave it would have lost everything.

Khamene'i Addresses Islamic Revolution Council

LD241209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The fourth session of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq was inaugurated yesterday afternoon in a ceremony in the presence of Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council. In this ceremony, which was also attended by Mr Mir-Salim, the President's chief adviser, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council expressed his hope that the new council session may further consolidate its activities and unity, referring to the role of that council in coordinating and uniting various forces and in attracting the allegiance of the people living under the oppression of the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime. He said: The present issues of our region are extremely sensitive and complex. We are at a very crucial point in the history of the region and of the war.

The president added: The regime ruling over Iraq — that is, the common enemy of both nations — resorts to certain actions which demonstrate its despair and uncertainty about the future. Attacking oil tankers in the Persian Gulf is not something that would be carried out by anyone unless he is in a desperate state.

Condemning any aggressive action in the Persian Gulf and stressing the powerful presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in confronting such provocations, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: From the start we have declared that we are forced to give a powerful response to any mischievous action in the Persian Gulf, and we unwaveringly insist on this stance.

Referring to the fact that the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq is a comprehensive umbrella that covers all Islamic groups and wings, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: It is only through this council that the personality of all different groups fighting against the present Iraqi regime is defined. The president emphasized: The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution holds the hopes of the oppressed Iraqi people, and this can be achieved only through your decisive, devoted, and sincere actions in this council.

At the end of his speech, addressing the officials of that council, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council stressed the need for a long-term plan in their activities: The Iraqi people and the Iraqi refugees are greatly oppressed by the tyrannical Iraqi regime and have pinned their hopes on the future; and you have great responsibility in this respect.

President Addresses IRGC Training Officers

LD241219 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps political-ideological training officers from all of the country's regions and bases met today with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the Republic. During the meeting the chief of the Supreme Defense Council stressed the importance of training in the Corps, and, referring to the continuous plots hatched by the arrogant powers for the purpose of dealing a blow to the Islamic revolution, said: Not only have the United States, the USSR, and the atheistic, espionage, and Zionist machines not given up attacking the revolution, but they also are in no hurry to renounce their plots. Iran's Islamic Revolution is not such an indifferent affair as to make the enemies refrain from attacking it. This is because the movement undertaken by the Islamic Revolution against its enemies in accordance with the interpretation of the Koran is: Be harsh to the infidels.

Referring to the fact that so far the enemy has embarked on various acts of skulduggery and plots, including attacks on our borders by such a mercenary as Saddam, attacks on our ships in the Persian Gulf and others, in order to confront the Islamic Revolution, the chief of the Supreme Defense Council said: These deeds of global arrogance are considered as part and parcel of his short-term plans, and undoubtedly he will embark on long-term attacks.

Emphasizing the fact that we should remain vigilant and watch over the economic, political, and cultural borders, that is, the borders from which global arrogance's long-term assaults would begin, Mr Khamene'i said, with regard to the attack by the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime: Had we not displayed decisiveness withregard to Iraq's attack and had the people not mobilized, rest assured that you would still be defending Ahvaz and Dezful, and there would no longer be any talk about the borders; and were we to sit idly by in the face of the villainy of the aggressors in the Persian Gulf, rest assured that you would still be receiving blows.

In conclusion the president of the Republic, stressing the need to observe morals, good manners, kindness, and care, together with education and training, issued the appropriate guidelines.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,736

LD241805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 84

[Communique No 1,736 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Over the past 24 hours, fighting continued as on previous days between the Islamic combatants and the aggressor Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq on most of the fronts of the imposed war with exchanges of fire from artillery and heavy weaponry, while on certain fronts clashes were more limited. On every front, our forces carried out defensive measures, engaging in the following operations for the purpose of destroying enemy personnel, positions and weaponry.

In the region of Hajj 'Umran and Chuman Mostafa, patrols and watchmen sighted increased movements and deployments by enemy units, which were delayed or halted after coming under fire. On other northwest fronts, enemy casualties and losses included one ammunitions dump, 10 trenches together with their observation posts, and a great number of enemy troops killed or wounded. On the western front, the Iraqi forces' losses included the total destruction of over 10 light and heavy arms emplacements and two 122-mm guns, while personnel losses were 11 killed or wounded. Valiant Gendarmerie staff in their defensive positions on the Susangerd and Arvand Rud fronts returned fire on enemy positions and trenches, destroying several enemy trenches and many of their occupants, in the operational sector of Susangerd. On the Arvand Rud front, our forces halted the movement of the Ba'thist mercenaries' traffic, destroying one loader and six arms emplacements, and killing or wounding a number of their troops. In the Khorramshahr operational sector, one enemy arms dump was set ablaze and destroyed. Over the past 24 hours the city of Abadan has again come under heavy arms fire.

Ministry of Petroleum Sees Record Oil Production

LD241206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 84

[Text] The Ministry of Petroleum announced that as a result of the efforts of the country's committed workers, the average amount of refined oil produced during the past month exceeded 683,707 barrels a day. This figure is 23 percent more than the nominal capacity of the refineries. It should be noted that the amount of refined oil produced on 5 May 1984 reached 696,560 barrels, which was a record.

Soviet Media Silent on Ehsan Tabari's Confessions

GF241418 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 May 84 p 3

[Text] Moscow and Baku radio have put a seal of silence on their lips against the disclosures made by the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, which broadcast the first part of the confessions of Ehsan Tabari. They have not said anything so far on Ehsan Tabari's rejection of the Marxist ideology.

We may remind you that after the disclosure of the plots of the defunct Tudeh Party and the arrests of the spies attached to the Eastern oppressors, the Soviet media kept silent for a few days and then came out openly in their support, saying that their trials were nothing but puppet shows. Moscow radio carried 133 commentaries in their Persian programs during a period of 5 months and all these commentaries were in favor of the spy elements.

The most interesting thing now is that VOA has also now come out in support of the Tudeh Party, and this is a fresh disclosure of coordination between the oppressors of the East and West against Islam and the Islamic Republic. Radio Moscow, in its last broadcast at 1400 yesterday, without any reference to the confessions of Ehsan Tabari, in which he had condemned Marxist ideology, resorted to discussing the superiority of the Marxist ideology.

Prime Minister Musavi Meets With Libyan Envoy

LD212252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The deputy director of the People's Bureau of the Libyan Jamahiriyah in Tehran [as heard] today met with Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister. In this meeting, referring to the recent incitements of American officials in the region, the deputy director of the People's Bureau of the Libyan Jamahiriyah emphasized: Neither America, Zionism, nor reaction can affect the Islamic community, because we Muslims rely upon Islamic principles.

While expressing his thanks for the positions adopted by the Libyan Jamahiriyah, the prime minister said: We are determined to make it impossible for any political or military victory by America in the region.

Briefs

Exports in 1983 — The exports of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1983 totalled $350 million. This was reported to our correspondent by the head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Mines. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 May 84 GF]